

Home Group Leader's Notes  
Week of May 12, 2019

**NOTES TO LEADERS: This week is focused on the judgments of God. The purpose of this week is to clarify judgment and motivate us to invest our lives in light of eternity.**

SHARE

When did you first think about the judgment of God? How did you respond?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: This was a very confusing and fearful thing to me. I didn't know anything about the gospel and only heard tidbits about judgment.**

LEARN

The Scriptures teach that God is the righteous judge of all people. Read the following Scriptures to understand who and how He judges.

What do we learn from Psalm 96:13? Why might the writer "sing?" (**rejoice**)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: As Todd said in his message, the writer is glad that God comes to judge. The writer knows the character of God and that His rule and judgment will be faithful to His character.**

Read Revelation 20:11-15. How does God judge? What are the results?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: He judges according to who is and isn't "in Christ" and therefore in the book of life. Those in Christ will not come into this judgment for it is the dead. (Remember that those who are in Christ are alive). The dead will be judged according to deeds and then placed in the lake of fire.**

Read Revelation 21:1-4. According to verse three, what is God's ultimate goal? What does this say about God?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: His goal is to dwell with people. This is why we were created – to be in relationship with God, enjoying Him. This is God's heart of compassion, grace, and love. It is a wonder that He would want us knowing before creation that we would rebel and reject.**

Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 1 Corinthians 3:11. How are believers in Christ judged? What are the results?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: All believers will stand before the judgment seat of Jesus. We will be rewarded based on "the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."**

People respond differently to the idea of being judged by God. How do you feel about it?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: This would be a good question to ask your group.**

## DISCUSS

What indicators reveal that our culture that hates being judged is extremely judgmental? Why do some people hate the thought of being judged? Why do you think that Christ-followers are accused of being judgmental?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Everything from individual actions to group think reveals that people hate the idea of being judged. "Don't judge me" is a common command. And yet, in social media, in the news, in every contest there is a tone of judgment. People evaluate people around them without ceasing.**

**The biggest rejection is the idea that there is a supreme judge, God, and that He has a standard of righteousness.**

**Christ-followers are accused because we sometimes expect those without Jesus to follow God's standards. We can sound condemning about sex, drink, money, politics, parenting, etc.**

What do we learn about God in Revelation 21:3? What do you think and feel when you read this?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: This is a wonderful verse that sums up God's master plan to dwell with us. This reminds me that I will be with Him forever, of His grace and love, of what really matters in this life.**

How can we communicate God's desire to the people in our worlds?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The promise of eternal life with Him and eternal death without Him is a striking contrast. I believe that as we invest into people's lives and engage in meaningful love and conversation, the goodness of God and the good news will be revealed. If we are intentional to share our lives and what God is revealing to us, God does a work in the people in our worlds.**

We read, "Jesus' followers will be judged based on how they invest their lives." What does 'invest' look like? What does it take to be a good investor? What is our motivation to "invest?" (See Matthew 25:21-23)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: THIS SHOULD BE A FOCUS OF YOUR CONVERSATION. What we believe should shape everything about our lives. This includes what relationships, time usage, money, willingness to sacrifice, etc. It is amazing what God does through a person who invests their life under Jesus leadership and love.**

May our Father give you wisdom and insight as you study, prepare, and shepherd God's people.

Steve